

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please cancel the paragraph starting on page 6, line 25 and replace it with the following paragraph.

--This connection is used during lifting of the fuel assembly to allow the individual fuel rods to be lifted in unison with a desired factor of safety. The shaft 14 is split into separate sections (the tendons 20) by the sleeve openings 28 in the shaft material in the location of the dimple area 66 to deflect into the dimple area (34).--

Please cancel the Abstract and replace it with the following Abstract: